

CHURCH OF ST. BERNARD

197 W. Geranium Ave.

ST. PAUL, MINN. 55117

July 7, 1977

Dear Father Abbot,

I didn't make it for the retreat and haven't been at St. John's lately, but I have wanted to talk to you or at least tell you how things are going for me at this time.

I have been here at St. Bernard's now for nearly a year including the time I spent in California at Santa Barbara. I really think going back to a place you have been before is difficult. I think I have tried to adjust and adapt to St. Bernard's again (perhaps Mel would disagree), but find it very difficult. As you remember, I wasn't particularly happy about being sent here and felt sort of like I was being pushed out of Cold Spring because Brennan and Joel needed places.

The question I have sometimes is this: "Am I really needed here at St. Bernard's?" Mel does a good job of running things. I really believe he has made St. Bernard's financially sound. He and the secretary really run the place.

I guess I am saying that I would like to get out of here, but still have lots of fears as to where you might send me and what kind of a job you might ask me to do. At this point I do not wish to return to St. John's and work there. I would prefer parish work or chaplain work. Also I think it would be tough on me to go way up north. Last year Daniel talked to me about Red Lake and I went up there with Gordon. I didn't think I could take it then, and don't think I could now.

Joel Kelly and I are very good friends and I suppose this letter in some way was influenced by his leaving. It was a real shock to me, but we promised each other to keep in contact.

As you remember I was in the mental health unit of the St. Cloud Hospital for a month in October of 1975. I guess I was pretty sick at the time. It was a tough experience and painful, but at the same time a good experience as to finding out a few things about myself. I still have periods of depression, but who doesn't. I guess the big difference now is that I can handle them in much better ways.

Fr. Cosmas and Fr. Edwin are not difficult to live with, just a little strange. I don't find any of them to be much companionship for me since none are active in sports, although Cosmas gets plenty of exercise. Mel makes a lot of jokes about my interest in golf, tennis, bowling and other activities.

I hope this letter finds you in good health. I hope you are getting out and hitting a few golf balls now and then. My game isn't very good, but I do enjoy getting out there. Right now the weather is just too darn hot to do much of anything. I have been painting the halls in the rectory, but decided today was just not a day for painting.

Sincerely and with love,

Thomas Gillespie

OSB GILLESPIE_00067

Parish Statement for St. Joseph's Parish [St. Mary's in Stillwater]

During the past week, Father Thomas Gillespie was referred to in an article on sexual abuse reported in the area media. At the time of the accusation in 1996, Father Thomas was pastor of the St. Joseph Parish [in St. Joseph, Mn]. The allegation which was settled out of court concerned an incident with a male minor which occurred in 1978 ~~at 1978~~ when Father Thomas was pastor of St. Mary's Church in Stillwater, Minnesota

As soon as the Abbey became aware of the allegation in 1996, Father Thomas was removed from the St. Joseph Parish and he returned to the Abbey. The Abbey offered counseling help to the victim. Father Thomas is restricted from having contact with young people.

The Abbey is deeply saddened and apologizes for harm that this incident brought to the victim, to the parishioners of St. Joseph [St. Mary's], and once again pledges its unequivocal determination to respond immediately to victims.

In an effort to deal with the anger, pain, and loss which people may be feeling in our parish, there will be a meeting in the dining room of the lab school on this Monday evening, June 10 at 8:00 p.m. This meeting is only for parishioners. Abbot John Klassen of St. John's Abbey and Father Marvin Enncking, the Vicar General of the Diocese will be present here [at St. Joseph] to answer questions, respond to concerns and pray with the parish for those involved.

Please support one another and pray for God's blessing and peace.

Copy

**Tom Gillespie, OSB
St. John's Abbey
Physical Plant
Collegeville, MN. 56211
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Dear Support Team Member,

I have applied for a monastic renewal program which will take place at a Benedictine monastery in Rome in April of 2004. This program lasts one month. Abbot John Klassen, my superior, is in favor of this spiritual journey, but must seek advice from an advisory board which he set up a number of months ago. He is not sure they will approve of my being part of this program.

I am asking you for a letter of support for this renewal program. You have known me well, especially since you were and still are on my support team. I have worked very hard in recovery these past seven years since returning from St. Luke's Institute. I still attend two support meetings each week in St. Cloud, I see and work with a therapist from time to time, and continue in my recovery by being in contact with you from time to time. I continue to work my program very seriously. I also work hard at being an active member of St. John's Monastic Community.

You could send this recommendation directly to Abbot John and the Review Board, or send it to me if you would like. Please address it to Abbot John and the Review Board.

Abbot John's Address: Abbot John Klassen, OSB
St. John's Abbey
Collegeville, MN 56321

I thank you for your support, help and friendship, especially over these past seven years.

Thomas W. Gillespie, OSB

P. S. I am enclosing a copy of the program

Tom Gillespie, OSB
St. John's Abbey/Physical Plant
Collegeville, MN 56321

8/5/2005 1:20 PM

Abbot John,

Several years ago I asked to go to the Benedictine Program in Rome with Fr. Jim Reichert. You told me it was a good idea, but it could not happen because the Review Board did not think it a good idea. Last year Fr. Jim Reichert asked if I could go with him this past April. Again you turned our request down.

Now I am asking for the third time if I could go next April with Fr. Wilfred Theisen. (We are fellow golfers.) I have talked with him and am willing to share more of my story with him. I think he would be a good companion for me.

I have sincerely worked hard on my spiritual development in these past nine years and I believe the program would help me grow even more. I have never been to Rome. I was in Germany for a brief tour of "Catholic Germany" about twenty-five years ago. I also visited Ireland, "God's Country," with my brother about thirty years ago.

I am also asking that you remove the restriction about assisting at community mass, especially during the week, but also eventually the weekends as well. You told us, "This was a temporary measure."

I would also like to use the exercise equipment in the Palaestra when accompanied by other monks.

Sincerely,



12 Twin Towers Road – Collegeville MN 56321

OSB GILLESPIE_00185

SAINT JOHN'S ABBEY

BOX 2015

COLLEGEVILLE, MINNESOTA 56321-2015

OFFICE OF THE ABBOT

August 18, 2005

Father Tom Gillespie, OSB
Saint John's Abbey

Dear Tom,

I am responding to your letter of August 5, 2005 in which you request permission to participate in the Recyclage program at Sant' Anselmo in April-May of 2006. With the risk assessment and safety plan work now accomplished and in place, I am granting you permission for this trip. Please understand that it was never an issue between you and me. Without the work with Project Pathfinders in place, I didn't have solid ground for making an affirmative decision in these crazy times.

Father Wilfred, your companion, needs to be in the role of supervisor on this trip. That is, he needs to know enough about your situation and the safety plan that he can verify that your conduct is in agreement with that plan.

You made two additional requests, the first regarding assisting at community Eucharist during the week and eventually on weekends as well; the second, being allowed to use the exercise equipment in the Palaestra when accompanied by other monks. I need additional time to respond to these two requests but will do so within a month.

Per our meeting in July, I would like to meet with you and Bob Stich to have a fuller conversation about the past and how you understand what happened.

Tom, let me take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership role in moving forward with the Project Pathfinders risk assessment and the development of a safety plan. There is no question in my mind that you were a positive force in getting the process going. In addition, you risked a great deal by being honest and forthcoming. Finally, you are a solid contributing member of our community, by your presence and by your daily contributions.

Blessings and peace,



Abbot John Klassen, OSB

PHONE 320 363-2544 FAX 320 363-3082 E-MAIL abbot@osb.org

OSB GILLESPIE_00186



SAINT JOHN'S
ABBAY

February 25, 2013

Father Tom Gillespie
Saint John's Abbey

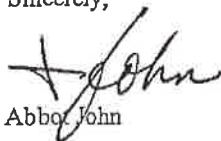
Dear Tom,

I am sending this to you as a letter than by email because I want to get off that crazy system.

Per our conversation please do not congratulate students by email regarding their concert performance.

The following is the email from Jan Jahnke to me following up on the incident. By reading this report from Jan, you can see how sensitive this student is. Please cease all contact with this student as well. I have shared the email message you sent to ; so that question should be answered for Jan and this matter should come to a close.

Sincerely,



Abbot John

cc: Steve Sawyer
Prior Tom Andert

From: Jahnke, Jan
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2013 11:25 AM
To: Abbot John Klassen's private account
Cc: Jahnke, Jan
Subject: Tom Gillespie

Abbot John,

I received a phone call from Fr. Doug this morning. Fr. Doug said that BernaDette (student Human Rights Officer) did reach out to the student regarding Fr. Tom Gillespie. The student emailed her back and said he is busy and doesn't want to pursue this now or in the future. He just wants it to stop. Although, we do not have a copy of the alleged email, Fr. Doug thinks that Fr. Tom should be informed to cease sending any further emails to the student. We understand that Tom attends his concerts as well, possibly he should cease all contact with the student?

Will you have a conversation with Fr. Tom?

Please let me know if you want me to do anything else.

Jan
HR - OSB